



The machine...we flew had been working away for a fortnight without the slightest accident or trouble, as regular...as any lawnmower....For...racing, reconnoitering, flying for fun—the conquest of the air seemed, indeed, to be pretty complete....

a 1910 Colliers magazine writer describes his first flight with Orville



Wright Model B 1910–1914

A Machine of Practical Utility

The Wright brothers never wanted to invent just a scientific curiosity, or a marvelous plaything. As Wilbur said, their goal was “*a machine of practical utility.*”

Their two-seater Model B—a replica of which you see here—was the first machine that truly fit the bill. It is also the first Wright aircraft to be built in mass production.

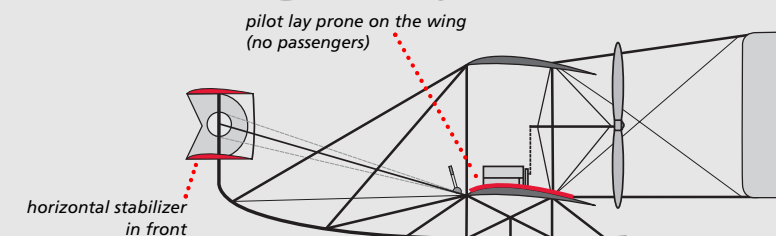
Model B flyers carried the first generation of student pilots into the skies—from this airfield. A Model B hauled the first commercial air delivery, again, from this historic field. This is the *aeroplane* that daredevils flew in aviation meets coast to coast.

This workaday machine, and its successors, swiftly carried aviation outside the lab and test field. The Wright brothers’ invention was headed on a course that—within only fifty years—would impact everyday civilian and military life around the world.



Aviation pioneer Marjorie Stinson (on right) learning to fly at Huffman Prairie Flying Field, 1914

1905 Wright Flyer III



1911 Model B

